

FRENCH LINE HURLED BACK

CIRCLE OF STEEL IS BEING THROWN AROUND VERDUN

Movement Marks Longest
Stride Yet Recorded in Effort
to Surround Fortress.

FIVE TOWNS CAPTURED
BY ARMY OF CROWN PRINCE

German Line Straightened and
Within Two Miles of
Outer Defenses.

THEIR GAINS CONSOLIDATED

of Ghastly Streams of Wounded Con-
stantly Flowing From
Battle Field.

Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch
from London, February 29.—The Germans
reported the capture of five
villages near Verdun. They are
the villages of Abcourt, Bionville, Manheulles,
and St. Eustache.

The advance was over a front twelve
miles long, and represents a gain of
one to four miles in three days.
The line brings the German line on the
east, at the nearest point, within
the miles of Verdun itself, straightening
the German line and bringing it,
as an eight miles of that front, within
the miles of the outer defenses of the
fort.

The move marks the greatest
stride yet recorded in the encircling
movement of the crown prince's army,
which completely surrounds the beleaguered
city an almost perfect semicircle, starting
at Champeville on the north,
the line extending to the south, on
the southeast, at a point where the
line is still more distant than
the line and one-half miles from the heart
of Verdun.

OF CALLING FIRE

Attacking the French line, the
German line ever-recurring French counter-
attacks at Fort Douaumont, the attack-
ing French line today clamped the jaws
of the German line.

The move is east of the line,
the German line, which is now within
the miles of the outer defenses of the
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PLACED AT 120,000

French estimates of the losses suf-
fered by the 150,000 Germans thus far
struck at Verdun are placed at about
120,000.

The German reports of the French
losses are enormous. An
American report states that the Ger-
mans have lost in killed alone 15,000.
Berlin reports received here by wire-
less state that the French are remov-
ing the big guns from the front of
Verdun and mounting them in the rear
line, in the French lines. These unofficial
have been accepted in Berlin as
Addison's corroboration of the predictions of
School of the city is imminent.

Paris official opinion is still opti-
mistic, according to dispatches received
here. Confidence is growing daily
in the fact that they will prove equal to the task
of setting at naught the colossal suc-
cess of the Germans.

RESULTS OF CAMPAIGN
IN GHAZLY STREAMS

had been from the battle front rearward a
parently ghastly stream of wounded is pouring
down the hillside. Facilities are taxed to the
upon the most with the stricken fighters ben-
dency to move to Paris, Troyes, Dijon and
they are moving. More than 1,000,000 shells, it
is estimated by observers, have been
the case. The Germans in their bomb-
ardment approach the most of the wounds have
been inflicted by the bursting pro-
cession. For instance,
ing's issue of The fact that the big siege howit-
there is an editorial, without batteries have it-
of this measure, in which it is stated that the
opposed to this professional, twelve-century
we have only a mass of the same and other
digested words.

That is unfair, it seems as if they are crumbling
in the face of the French line. The surviving
view of the writer, when ordered to the rear
one of the most of the front line.
newspapers in Virginia and snow added to the
his editorial responsibility upon the women and
ten that sentence. We who were sheltered in
what we think is just
presume that others on the front state that
on the Second Page.)

Germans Advance East of Verdun

WITH the lessening of the ac-
tivity of the contending forces
to the north of Verdun, the French
are using their artillery to break
up German preparations for further
advances toward the fortress. At
various points the fire of the French
guns has prevented the Germans
from launching offensives.

In the Vosges Mountains there
also has been great artillery ac-
tivity by the French near Senones
and Ban-de-Saint-Valentin. The Ger-
mans have been driven out of
trenches they had previously
taken. In the Champagne region,
the German fortified works in the
region of hill 103 have been battered
by the French guns, and the crater
of a mine exploded by the Germans
was occupied by the French.

The Germans have added several
additional points to their terrain in
the fighting about Verdun, having
been enabled to construct trenches
on the slopes north of the Cote-du-
Poivre and to capture an armored
park northwest of Douaumont, and
have taken the towns of Manheulles
and Champeville, thirteen miles south-
east of Verdun.

In this drive to the east of Verdun
the advance of the Germans has
extended over a front of vir-
tually twelve miles—from Dieppe to
Champeville.

Berlin reports that thus far they
have taken prisoner 225 officers,
10,575 men and a large number of
guns, machine guns and much war
material.

RESULTS OF CAMPAIGN AWAITED WITH CONCERN

New Austro-German Effort to Rid
Sea of Allied Merchant Ships
Now Under Way.

ORDER EFFECTIVE AT MIDNIGHT

Washington's Attitude Not Fully De-
termined, but if American Is In-
jured Grave Situation Will Arise.
Cabinet Considers Question.

WASHINGTON, February 29.—Results
of the new Austro-German submarine
campaign against merchant ships of
the entente allies, beginning at mid-
night, are awaited by the United States
with grave concern.

Although under their new instruc-
tions, Teutonic naval commanders are
authorized to sink without warning all
armed enemy merchantmen they en-
counter, it is understood they have
been told to make sure, if possible,
that American citizens are not aboard
any vessels attacked.

Count Bernstorff, ambassador for
Germany, has assured the United States
that her instructions are so formulated
as to prevent the destruction of enemy
liners "on account of their armament
unless such armament is proved."

The attitude of the United States
government toward the new policy of
Germany and Austria has not been
definitely determined. President Wilson
today discussed the subject in a
conference with Secretary Lansing and
then laid the German communication
before his Cabinet. Later it was said
that, because the all-important ap-
pendices to the German memorandum
had been delayed in transit, the State
Department thus far was unable to
determine whether the claims set for-
ward by Germany and Austria in
justification of their course were sus-
tainable. The State Department to-
morrow probably will take steps to
determine what has become of the
missing appendices, which were started
in the mails from Berlin nearly three
weeks ago.

IF AMERICAN IS INJURED.

SITUATION WILL BE GRAVE
Meanwhile, if any American citizen
is injured during the attack by a
submarine on a merchant ship which
does not and has no intention of using
its armament otherwise than defen-
sively, a grave situation will arise.
The United States stands at this
time, as it always has done, for the
rights of American citizens to travel
with safety on defensively armed ships.
If the German contentions are sus-
tainable, however, and it is proved con-
clusively that a ship upon which an
American may be injured used defen-
sive armament for purposes of offense,
it is considered unlikely that this gov-
ernment will take any action.

FEW VESSELS MENACED

BY TEUTONIC SUBMARINES
NEW YORK, February 29.—Only a
small proportion of the shipping plying
between European and American ports
—a fleet of armed Italian merchant-
men—appears to be menaced by the
new Teutonic submarine policy, which
goes into effect at midnight.

British and French ships that have
arrived here and at other Atlantic
ports during the past year have car-
ried no guns. Seven Italian ships with
naval guns mounted on their after-
decks and manned by trained crews
from the Italian navy have been plying
between New York and Mediterranean
ports since the first of the year, and
one, similarly armed, put in at Port
Arthur, Tex.

PROHIBITION BILL MEETS APPROVAL

Goes on Calendar Substantially
in Form in Which It
Passed Senate.

REJECT GORDON AMENDMENT

Salary of Prohibition Commis-
sioner \$3,500—Cider May Con-
tain 1 Per Cent Alcohol.

Rejecting by decisive majorities all
amendments looking to integral
changes, the House Committee on Moral
and Social Welfare voted unanimously
last night to report the Mapp prohibi-
tion bill substantially in the form in
which it passed the Senate.

Yielding to the pressure of Chair-
man Jordan, Delegate Williams and
other members of the committee who
were opposed to the section prohibiting
the sale and distribution in Virginia of
newspapers published out of the State
when such papers carry liquor adver-
tisements, the committee amended this
section to allow the sale and distribu-
tion of such newspapers to bona fide
purchasers or subscribers.

The qualification was attached to
meet the fear of Senator Mapp and
Rev. James Cannon, Jr., both of whom
sat with the committee through its
two sessions yesterday, that if the
section were stricken out entirely, the
way would be opened for the distribu-
tion of whisky-house publications sup-
plied to the people of the State free
of charge.

CIDER CLAUSE AMENDED TO

ALLOW 1 PER CENT ALCOHOL
In deference to the claim of cider
manufacturers that the Mapp bill in
allowing the sale in or out of the State
of cider made from home-grown apples,
containing not more than one-half of
1 per cent alcohol, it was granting a
right that was nullified by an impos-
sible condition, the committee raised
the alcohol percentage to 1 per cent.
In no other respects was the cider sec-
tion of the Mapp bill changed. The
testimony of cider manufacturers be-
fore the House committee was to the
effect that cider often contains more
than one-half of 1 per cent of alcohol
when it leaves the press, and that it
would be next to impossible to hold
the percentage of alcohol to this mini-
mum under ordinary conditions with-
out the use of preservatives.

Senator Mapp and Senator Walker,
both patrons of the prohibition bill,
addressed the committee at length on the
Gordon amendment providing for the
enforcement of the prohibition law by
the Attorney-General. Senator Mapp
repeated the argument against the plan
that he made before the committee
Monday night, while Senator Walker
gave it his strong endorsement. He
was one of the leaders in the unsuccess-
ful Senate fight for the adoption of
the Conrad amendment looking to the
same end.

GORDON AMENDMENT IS

DEFEATED BY VOTE OF 9 TO 4
On the roll call the Gordon amend-
ment making the Attorney-General
prohibition commissioner was rejected
by a vote of 9 to 4, the members voting
as follows:

For the amendment—Delegates

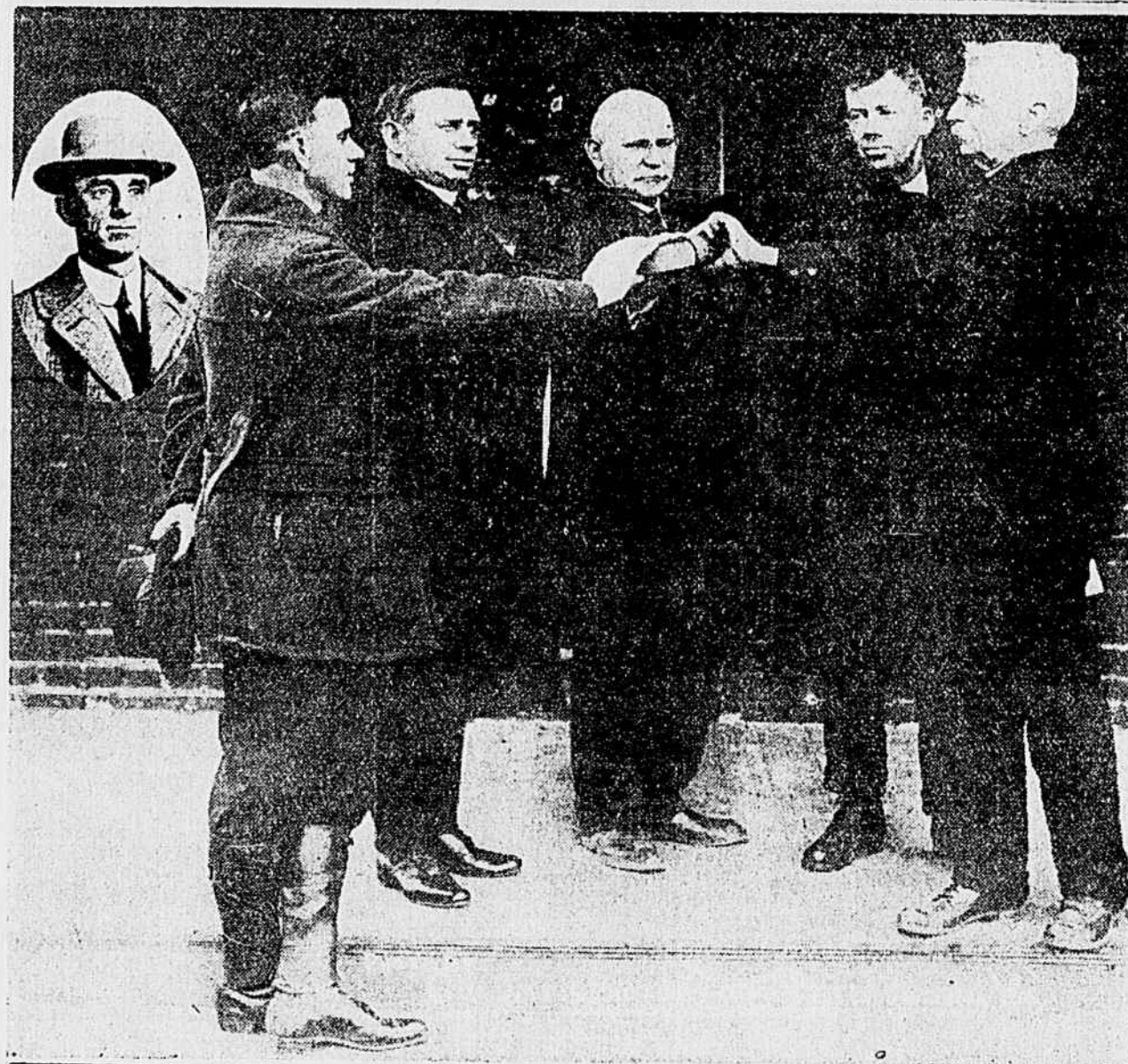
Love, Gordon, Stephenson and Wil-
liams, Total, 4.

Against the amendment—Delegates
Jordan, Pitts, Kent, Jett, Wright, T.
H. Moss, Jones, Cato and Wright, E.
J. Total, 9.

At the afternoon session of the com-
mittee, Delegate Reed, of Portsmouth,
offered an amendment providing for
the election of the prohibition com-
missioner by the people, beginning in
1920. His amendment also made the
salary of the commissioner \$5,000 a
year, instead of \$3,500, as provided in
the bill.

Delegate Gordon alone supported the
amendment in the committee. It was
rejected by a vote of 12 to 1, all the
other members in attendance regis-
tering in the negative. Delegate F. J.
Wright, Republican, told the commit-
(Continued on Fifth Page.)

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE DEMANDED BY WILSON



Hopewell's ad interim Administrative Board taking oath of office at Prince George Courthouse yesterday before Clerk of the Courts W. D. Temple. Left to right, they are: Richard Boisseau, M. M. Finn (temporary chairman), Richard Eppes, Benjamin Harrison (secretary) and W. D. Temple, clerk of the courts; J. O. Faison (inset), who was unable to be present when his colleagues were sworn in.

ADDISON LEADS FIGHT ON CO-ORDINATE COLLEGE

Senate Spends Day in Debate With-
out Even Bringing About
Test of Strength.

MAY VOTE THIS AFTERNOON

Cannon and Wendenburg, of Rich-
mond, Make Able Arguments for
State Provision for Higher Educa-
tion of Women at University.

"It is mandatory that the Senate
pass this bill. The women of Virginia
demand that we give them an oppor-
tunity to enter the higher intellectual
life of the State, and the time has now
come when we must heed their prayer.
It is unbelievable that any Senator
on this floor can deny their right to
collegiate training. And it is impos-
sible, in the nature of things, to supply
a college at any other place that would
so nearly meet their demands as at
the University of Virginia, the natural
intellectual fountain of the State."

In these words, Senator Cannon, of
Richmond, yesterday took up the
Cannon bill, which proposes to ex-
pand the usefulness of the University of Virginia in
the establishment near Charlottesville
(Continued on Third Page.)

HOPEWELL OFFICIALS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE

New Commissioners of City Qualify
for Duties at Prince George
Courthouse.

CONFER WITH STUART TO-DAY

Seek Governor's Advice in Formu-
lating Plan for Inaugurating Civil
Government in Powder Town.
Martial Law Comes to End.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
HOPEWELL, VA., February 29.—For
the purpose of formulating a plan for
the inauguration of a civil govern-
ment in Hopewell, the five members
of the Administrative Board ap-
pointed on Monday will hold a confer-
ence with Governor Stuart at the Cap-
itol in Richmond to-morrow afternoon.
It was announced to-night.

Martial law, which has prevailed
here since December 9, when the city
was wiped out by fire, will end to-
morrow afternoon with the departure
of Major E. W. Bowles, of Richmond,
and Company M, First Regiment, Vir-
ginia Volunteers.

The new commissioners, M. M. Finn,
Benjamin Harrison, Richard Eppes,
(Continued on Second Page.)

NEARLY 1,000 LIVES LOST WHEN LA PROVENCE SINKS

Former Transatlantic Liner Sent to
Bottom on Saturday in Medi-
terranean Sea.

HAD 1,800 PERSONS ON BOARD

Some Survivors Land at Malta, While
Others Are Taken to Greek Island
of Melos—Believed to Have Been
Torpedoed.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]
PARIS, February 29.—La Provence,
the former transatlantic liner, prob-
ably recently an auxiliary French cruiser,
was sunk on last Saturday in the Medi-
terranean. The loss of life is esti-
mated at 350, although it may reach
1,000. An official statement said that
at the time of the accident there were
1,800 persons aboard the cruiser.

Later another statement said that
there were 870 survivors. At Malta
296 were landed, while 400 others were
landed on the Greek island of Melos.
Ten torpedo-boats and other craft
are scouring the vicinity of the scene
of the accident for others who may still
be alive. It is believed they have
picked up a number, sufficient to ac-
count for the difference between those
who have been landed and the re-
ported survivors.

RELIEVE THAT TORPEDO

SENT HER TO BOTTOM

Not a word is forthcoming from the
Ministry of Marine as to how La
Provence met her fate. It is generally
accepted as a fact, however, that she
was sent to the bottom by a torpedo,
as German and Austrian submarines
have been operating recently in the
Mediterranean waters. Before she
could be sunk she had been tor-
pedoed, and immediately began to sink.
At the time of the attack she was in
the middle of the Mediterranean, mid-
way between Malta and Melos, which
are about 600 miles apart.

The signals of distress sent out did
not bring aid until after the former
liner had been sunk. It is evident that
La Provence was carrying troops either
from or to Saloniki.

The troops and members of the crew
had taken to the boats, and as rapidly
as they were picked up, they were
hurried to Melos or Malta. The first of
the survivors reached Melos on Sunday
morning.

Announcement of the disaster was
withheld in the hope that all of those
on board would be picked up. This
hope finally had to be abandoned, how-
ever, by officials.

LA PROVENCE WAS DEAR

TO AMERICAN HEARTS

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
NEW YORK, February 29.—La Pro-
vence was almost as dear to the hearts
of Americans as she was to French-
men. For a number of years she was
"queen of the seas," the largest, finest
and fastest of transatlantic liners. She
was built at St. Nazaire in 1906. She
was built for speed and luxury. Dis-
placing 13,753 tons, she made twenty-
five knots an hour on her maiden trip
to New York, covering the distance
between Havre and Sandy Hook in
four days, thirteen hours and twenty-
three minutes.

PRESIDENT CALLS FOR SHOW-DOWN ON GERMAN POLICY

Can Proceed No Further
With Submarine Negotia-
tions Until It Is Given.

DISSESSION IN CONGRESS
WEAKENING HIS POSITION

Wants Immediate Action on Pro-
posal to Warn Americans
From Armed Ships.

CAPITOL GREATLY SURPRISED

Administration Now Ready to Give
Berlin Demonstration
of Its Unity.

WASHINGTON, February 29.—Pre-
sident Wilson decided to-day that he
cannot proceed with the German sub-
marine negotiations while dissen-
sion in Congress weakens his position be-
fore the world, so he called for a show-down
on the pending proposals to warn
Americans off merchant ships of the
European belligerents armed for de-
fense.

Making clear that he considers the
President, and not Congress, charged
with the conduct of foreign relations
of the United States, he wrote a letter
to Representative Pou, acting chair-
man of the House Rules Committee, ask-
ing him to provide parliamentary means
for bringing the action out in the open
on the floor of the House with full dis-
cussion and a vote. Later he sum-
moned Senator Stone and Representa-
tive Flood, chairman of the Foreign
Affairs Committee, and Senator Kern,
majority leader in the Senate, for a
conference at the White House to-
morrow morning, at which he will re-
quest that one of the various resolu-
tions be acted upon.

Administration leaders
steadily for the last week
ing their lines and count-
support of the Republican
sure of their position
to end all agitation
confidence in the Preside.

READY TO GIVE GERMAN

DEMONSTRATION
The President's letter to Mr. Pou, the
signal that the administration was
ready to give Germany a demonstration
of its unity, follows:

"My Dear Mr. Pou.—Inasmuch as I
learn that Mr. Henry, chairman of the
Committee on Rules, is absent in Texas,
I take the liberty of calling your at-
tention, as ranking member of the
committee, to a matter of grave con-
cern to the country, which can, I be-
lieve, be handled under the rules of
the House only by that committee."

"The report that there are divided
counsels in Congress in regard to the
foreign policy of the government, is
being made industriously use of in
foreign capitals. I believe that report to
be false, but so long as it is anywhere
credited, it cannot fail to do the
greatest harm and expose the country
to the most serious risks. I, therefore,
feel justified in asking that your com-
mittee will permit me to urge an early
vote upon the resolutions with regard
to travel on armed merchantmen
which have recently been so much
talked about, in order that there may
be afforded an immediate opportunity
for full public discussion and action
upon them, and that all doubts and
conjectures may be swept away and
our foreign relations more cleared
of damaging misunderstandings."

"The matter is of so grave impor-
tance and lies so clearly within the field
of executive initiative that I venture
the hope that your committee will not
think that I am taking unwarranted
liberty in making this suggestion as
to the business of the House, and I
earnestly commend it to their im-
mediate consideration."

"Cordially and sincerely yours,

"WOODROW WILSON."

COURSE IS DECIDED ON

AFTER CABINET MEETING

This course was decided on after to-
day's Cabinet meeting, at which it
was discussed, and after a week's quiet
steady work at the Capitol. Prompt
action is desired, particularly in the
House, where agitation has been most
turbulent, and where Speaker Clark
predicted anti-administration resolu-
tions, when first introduced, would have
passed by a majority of two to one.
There never has been a question of
the administration control on the Sen-
ate side.

Adoption of the pending resolutions
practically would amount to congres-
sional repudiation of policies announced
and contended for by President Wil-
son and Secretary Lansing all through
the submarine negotiations, which more
than once were in a crisis. With their
defeat and an affirmation by a ma-
jority of Congress of their confidence
in the President's course, Mr. Wilson's
supporters point out, he will be
enabled to continue to contend for the
principles of international law and
humanity with a united government
behind him, and with the same force
as he has a minority in Con-
gress, when first his position more than
all the rest of the foreign dip-
lomatics was in a crisis. Dispar-
ity from Berlin and Vienna
have picked how the congressional
agitation was received there as in-
du-